3. Design and Urban Cultures

This research cluster takes an interdisciplinary approach to spatial design and explores the diversity of human occupation. The cluster includes a vibrant community of researchers working on topics related to cultural heritage. Wherever possible we encourage collaboration with museums, galleries and other heritage organisations. Current projects include work with ICA, Sir John Soane's Museum, and the National Maritime Museum. Members’ work on urban space includes collaborative projects with the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, the Sorbonne and Tianjin University. This Cluster has links in Japan, The Netherlands, South Korea, Canada and USA with research in/on postcolonial cities, post-industrial re-use, creative cities, branding, place-making and mega-events. We welcome proposals that address one of the following themes:

**Project Title:** Architectural and cultural dialogues between Britain and China

**Key Words:** Architecture, urbanism, cultural heritage, post colonialism, transregionalism, China

**Brief Description**
We welcome proposals that look at the cultural dialogue between Britain and China at any point or points in time from the Macartney Embassy to the present day as expressed in architecture, urbanism and/or landscape. This studentship will be attached to a research project on the architectural and urban history of Tianjin, China and strategies for interpreting the city’s past and for projecting its identity on the global stage.

[http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/staffdirectory/dana-arnold.aspx](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/staffdirectory/dana-arnold.aspx)

**Relevant Publications**
达纳·阿诺德 Dana Arnold 赵纪军 译 Tr. by Zhao Jijun 场所的复杂性*:对天津的跨文化解读 The Complexities of Place: Transcultural Readings of Tianjin, 新建筑·New Architecture, China, 5/2012 pp18-20

**Contact:** Prof Dana Arnold  ([d.arnold@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:d.arnold@mdx.ac.uk))
**Project Title:** Architecture as cultural discourse in the long eighteenth century

**Key words:** Architecture, urbanism, landscape, culture, society, theory

**Brief Description**
We are seeking proposals that reflect upon the discourses around architecture and architectural practice (including urban and landscape design) in the long eighteenth century. Projects that pay attention to the historiography of the period and engage with critical theory as a method of investigation are welcome. Topics that offer a transdisciplinary and/or transcultural exploration of architecture in this period are encouraged. This studentship will be associated with the research group known as ‘Fenella’ - that explores the resonance between theory and archive and the spaces in between Architectural and Design History.

**Contact:** Prof Dana Arnold ([d.arnold@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:d.arnold@mdx.ac.uk))
[http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/staffdirectory/dana-arnold.aspx](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/staffdirectory/dana-arnold.aspx)
Project Title: Mega-Events, Design and Culture

Key Words: Mega-Events, Culture and Regeneration, Inclusive Design

Brief Description:
The use of mega or hallmark special events such as EXPOS, Olympics, and international cultural and sporting events to build identities, (re)brand a city and accelerate area-based regeneration and city extensions is a universal phenomenon. This is evident in summer Olympics in Athens, Beijing, London, Rio; EXPOs in Shanghai; and European Capitals of Culture. The role of the arts and design in both celebrating and in political resistance movements and activism is the topic for this studentship. This will range from the extent to which inclusive design is evident in event facilities, location and planning; the legacy use of facilities and the contrast between new-build and re-use of event facilities; to the role of artists and cultural organisations in cultural programmes, in ‘dressing the city’¹ and in opposition movements to resist the displacement and gentrification effects of these major events. Middlesex University hosts the RSA’s Mega-Events Research Network and seminar series (http://adri.mdx.ac.uk/contentcurator.net/mega-events) and the student will benefit from this international network resource. The research is likely to focus on specific mega-event case studies and their legacy, as well as comparative/historical analysis.


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